

# **Software Product Lines**

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Pittsburgh, PA 15213**

**This work is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense.**



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# Today's Talk

## Introduction

### Product Line Concepts

- What
- Why
- How

### Conclusion



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# Software Engineering Institute

Applied R&D laboratory situated as a college-level unit at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Established in 1984

Technical staff of 335

Offices in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (USA), Arlington, Virginia (USA) and Frankfurt Germany

**Purpose:** Help others improve their software engineering practices



# Product Line Systems Program

Our Goal: To enable widespread product line practice through architecture-based development

## Our Strategy

Software Architecture  
*(Architecture Tradeoff Analysis Initiative)*

Software Product Lines  
*(Product Line Practice Initiative)*

Component Technology  
*(Predictable Assembly from Certifiable  
Components Initiative)*



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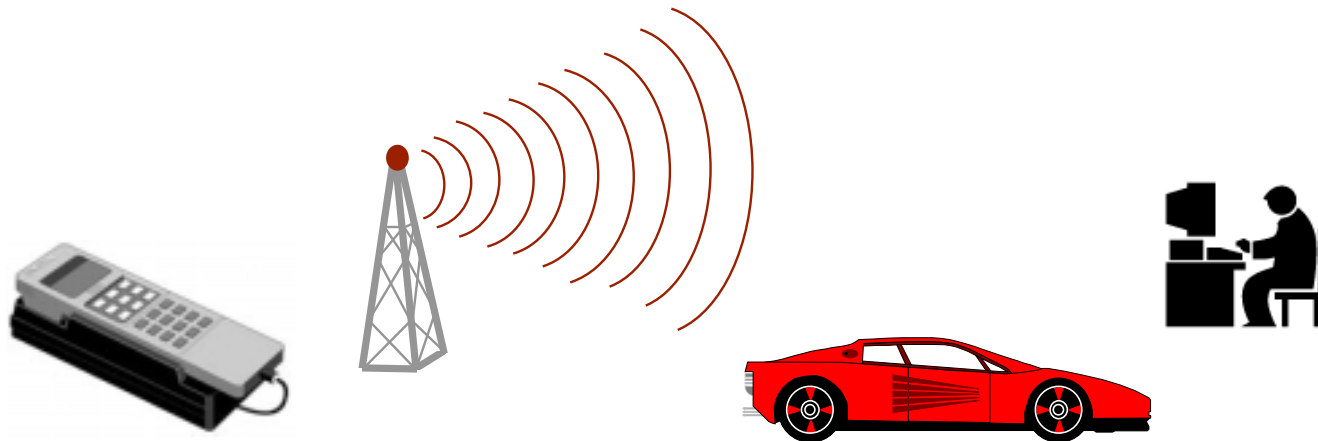
# Our Customers and Collaborators

ABB  
Daimler Chrysler  
Caterpillar  
Robert Bosch Co.  
Raytheon  
Foliage  
RIM  
Unisys  
Visteon  
LLNL  
EPA  
FAA  
NASA: JSC  
NASA: KSC  
NASA Goddard  
USCG  
NRO/CCT  
JNIC  
DMSO  
US Army SOA: TAPO  
US Army: FBCB2, CECOM, ATSC, FCS  
US Navy: TENA, DDX  
US Navy: DDX  
US Air Force: F-22, ESC



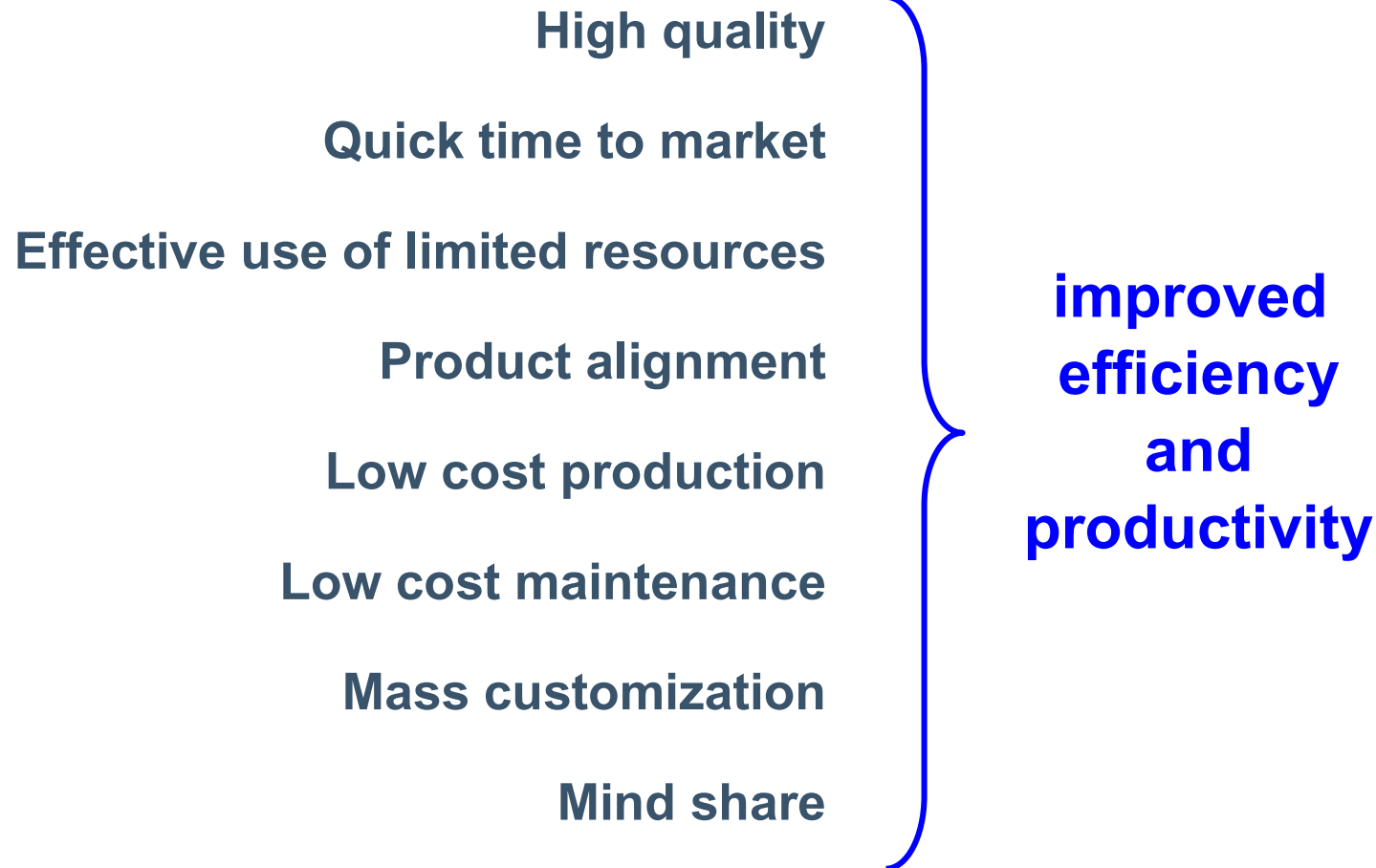
Philips  
Lucent  
AT&T  
Hewlett Packard  
Thomson-CSF  
Ericsson  
Raytheon  
Siemens  
Schlumberger  
Nokia  
Telesoft S.p.A.  
Boeing  
CelsiusTech  
Buzzeo  
ALLTEL  
Motorola  
Cummins, Inc.  
General Motors  
Lockheed Martin  
Salion, Inc.  
MarketMaker

# Business Success Requires Software Prowess



Software pervades every sector.  
Software has become the bottom line for many organizations who never envisioned themselves in the software business.

# Universal Business Goals





## The Ultimate Universal Goal

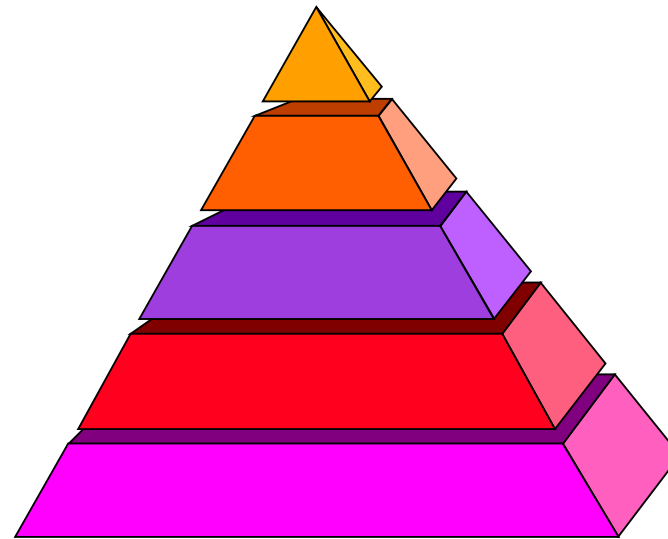


# Software (System) Strategies

Process Improvement

Technology Innovation

Reuse

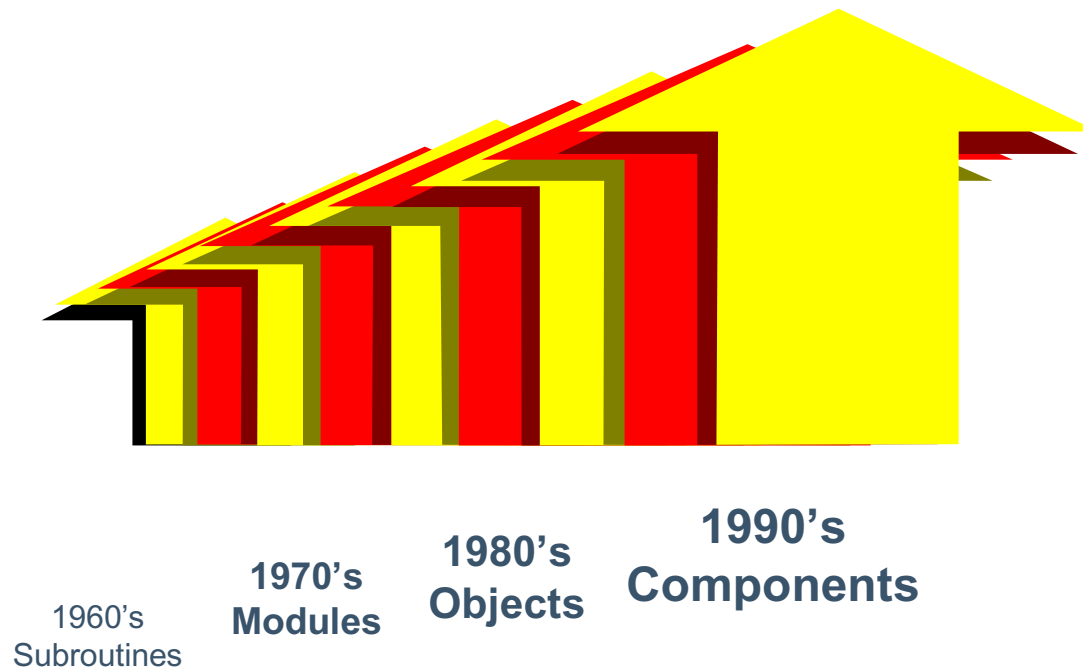


## Few Systems Are Unique



Most organizations produce families of similar systems, differentiated by features.

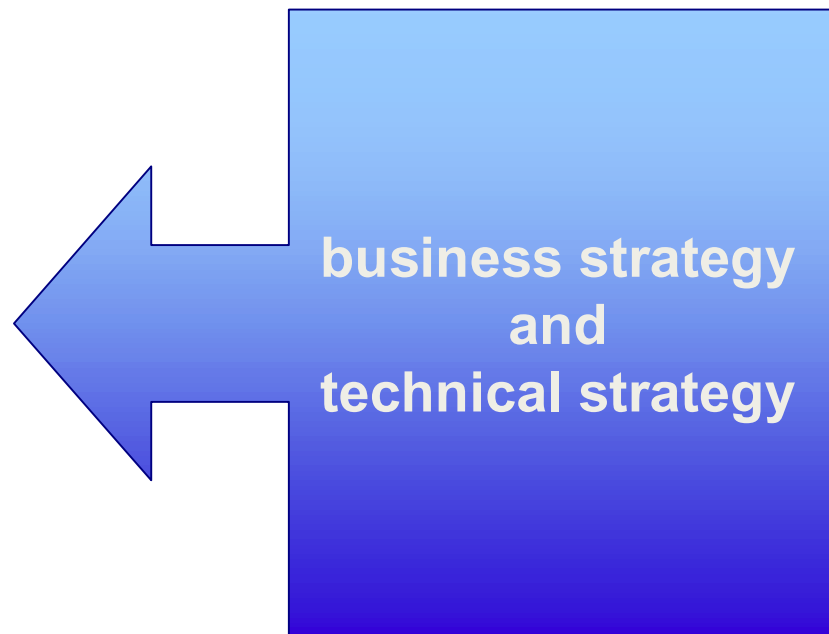
# Reuse History



Focus was small-grained and opportunistic.  
Results fell short of expectations.

# Imagine Strategic Reuse

**strategic  
reuse**





# CelsiusTech: Ship System 2000

A family of 55 ship systems

Integration test of 1-1.5 million

SLOC requires 1-2 people

Rehosting to a new platform/OS

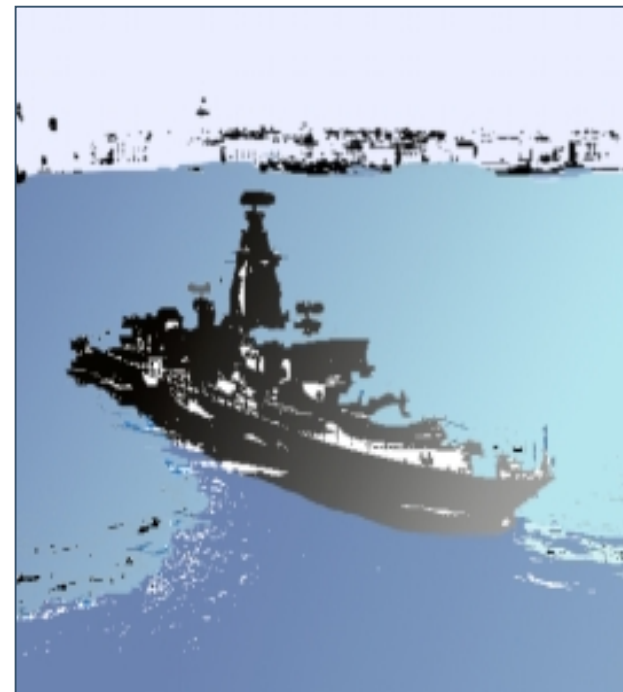
takes 3 months

Cost and schedule targets are  
predictably met

Performance/distribution behavior  
are known in advance

Customer satisfaction is high

Hardware-to-software cost ratio  
changed from 35:65 to 80:20





# Cummins Inc.: Diesel Engine Control Systems

Over 20 product groups with  
over 1000 separate engine  
applications

Product cycle time was  
slashed from 250 person-  
months to a few person-  
months

Build and integration time was  
reduced from one year to  
one week

Quality goals are exceeded  
Customer satisfaction is high  
Product schedules are met



# National Reconnaissance Office / Raytheon: Control Channel Toolkit

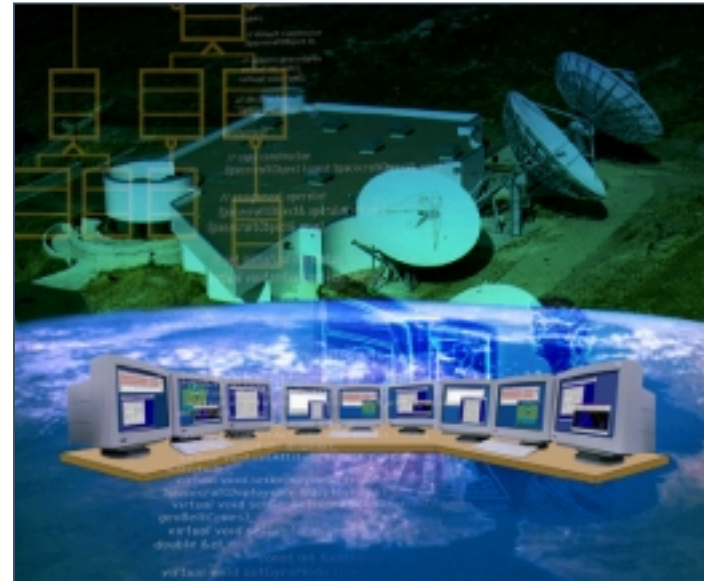
Ground-based spacecraft  
command and control systems

Increased quality by 10X  
Incremental build time  
reduced from months  
to weeks

Software productivity  
increased by 7X

Development time and costs  
decreased by 50%

Decreased product risk





# Market Maker GmbH: MERGER

Internet-based stock market  
software

Each product “uniquely”  
configured

Three days to put up  
a customized system





# Nokia Mobile Phones

Product lines with 25-30 new products per year

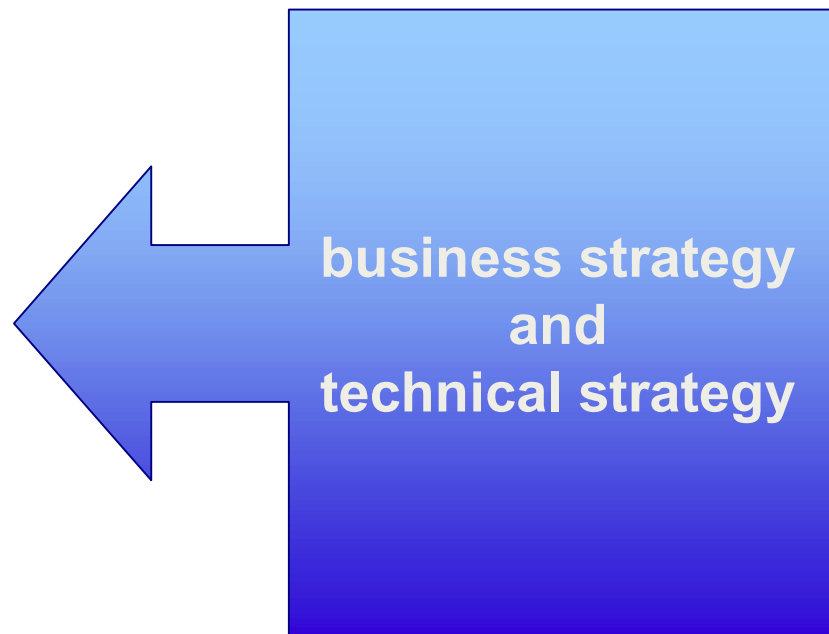
Across products there are

- varying number of keys
- varying display sizes
- varying sets of features
- 58 languages supported
- 130 countries served
- multiple protocols
- needs for backwards compatibility
- configurable features
- needs for product behavior change after release



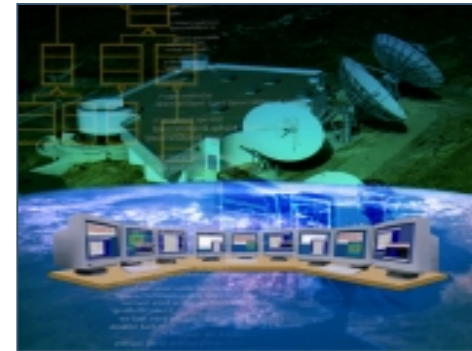
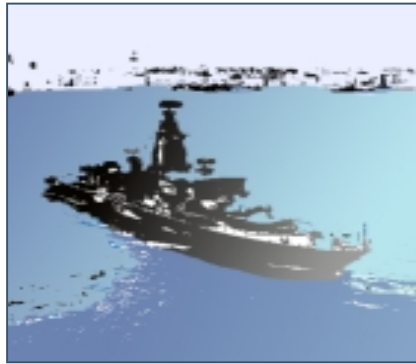
## How Did They Do It?

**strategic  
reuse**

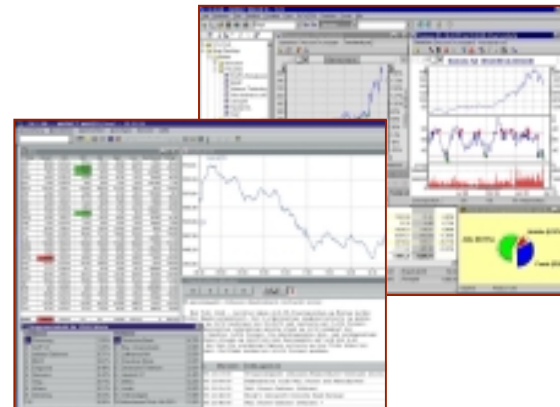


**employed to achieve explicit business goals**

# Strategic Reuse is Different

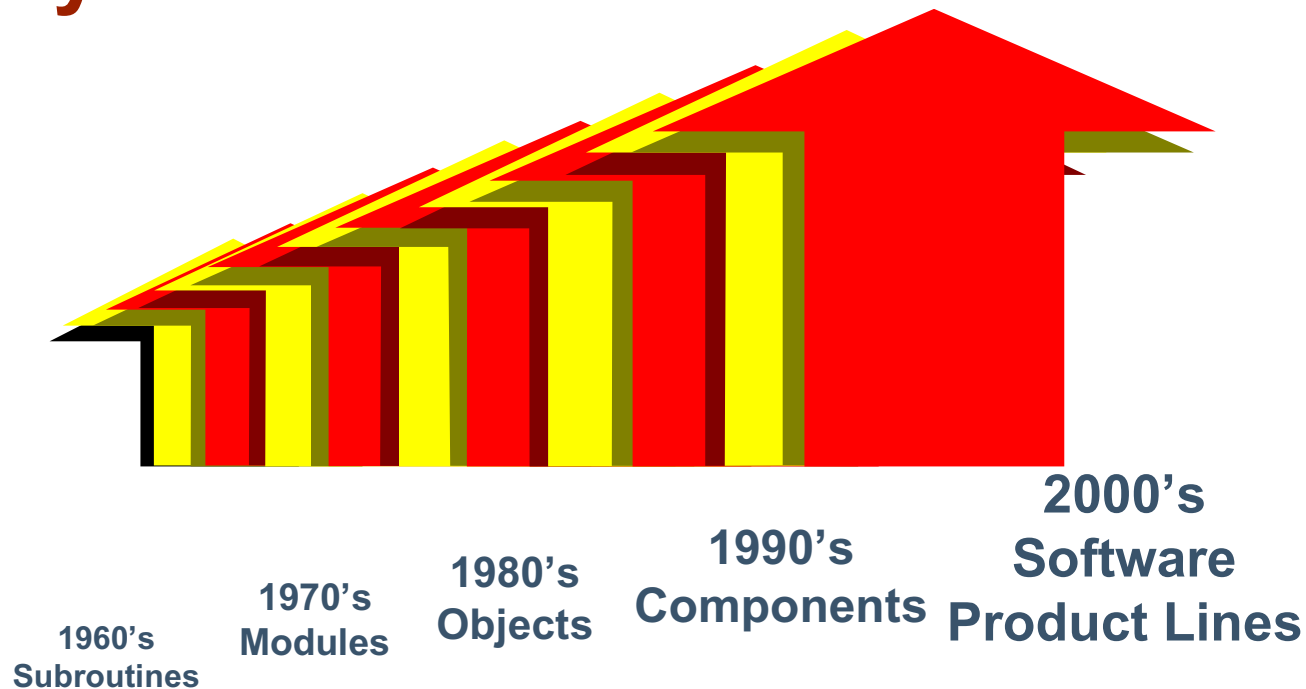


## Software Product Lines





# Reuse History: From Ad-Hoc to Systematic





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# Today's Talk

Introduction

## Product Line Concepts

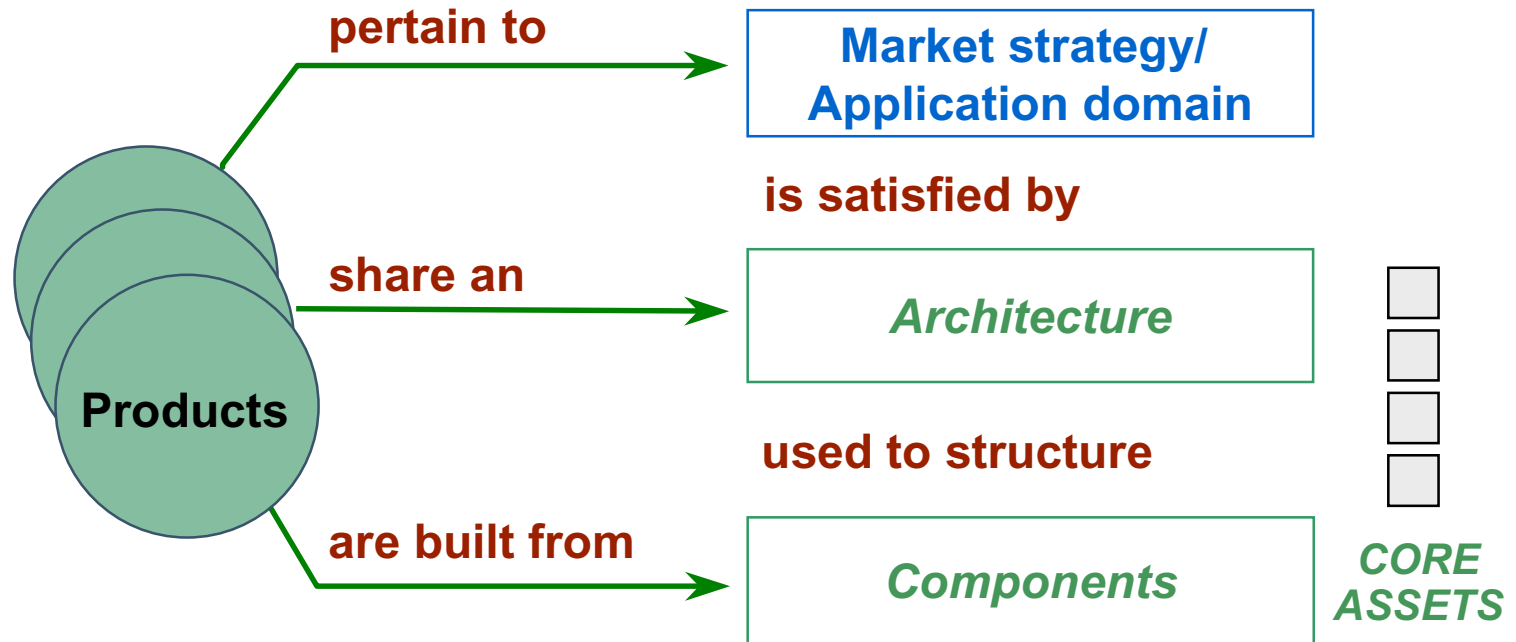
- What
- Why
- How

Conclusion

# What is a Software Product Line?

A software product line is a **set** of software-intensive systems sharing a **common, managed set of features** that satisfy the specific needs of a particular market segment or mission and that are developed from a common set of core assets in a prescribed way.

# Software Product Lines



## Product lines

- take economic advantage of commonality
- bound variability

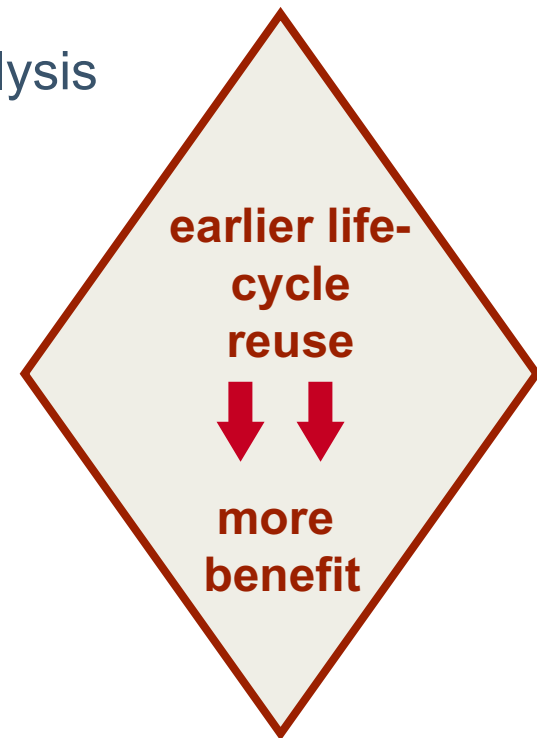


# How Do Product Lines Help?

Product lines amortize the investment in these and other *core assets*:

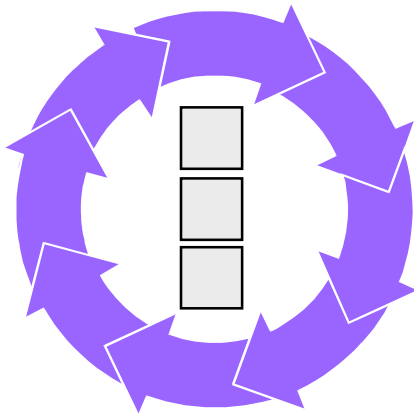
- requirements and requirements analysis
- domain model
- software architecture and design
- performance engineering
- documentation
- test plans, test cases, and data
- people: their knowledge and skills
- processes, methods, and tools
- budgets, schedules, and work plans
- components

*product lines = strategic reuse*

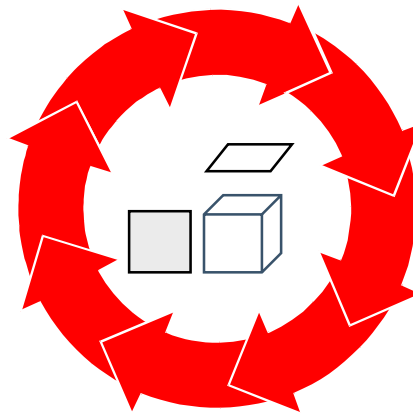


# The Key Concepts

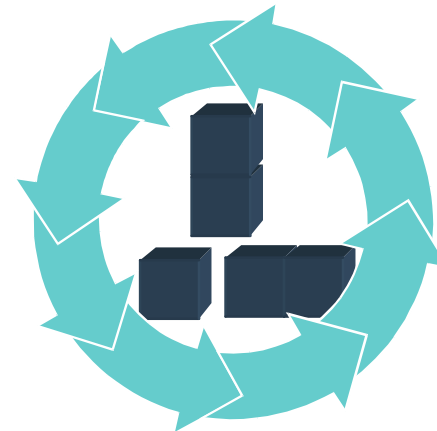
Use of a  
common  
asset base



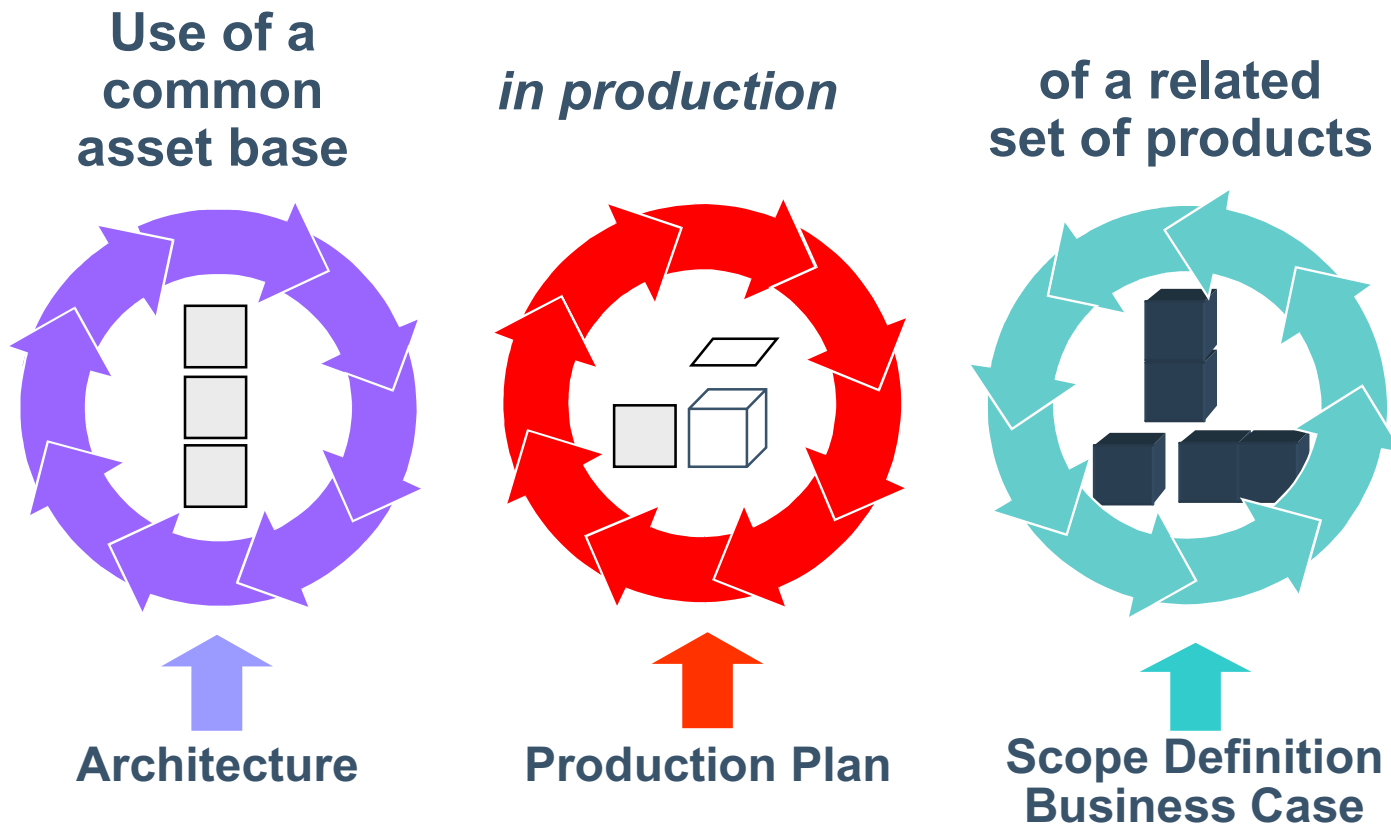
*in production*



of a related  
set of products



# The Key Concepts



# Software Product Lines Are Not - 1

## Fortuitous Small-Grained Reuse

- Reuse libraries containing algorithms, modules, objects, or components
- Benefits depend on
  - software engineer's predisposition to use what is in the library
  - suitability of library contents for particular needs
  - successful adaptation and integration of library units into the rest of the system
- Reuse is not planned, enabled, or enforced nor are results predictable



# Software Product Lines Are Not - 2

## Single-System Development with Reuse

- Borrowing opportunistically from previous efforts
- Modifying as necessary for the single system only
- Asset base never cultivated

## Just Component-Based Development

- Selection of components from an in-house library or the marketplace
- Missing a product line architecture and a production plan as well as management infrastructure

# Software Product Lines Are Not - 3

## Just a Configurable Architecture

- Involves use of a reference architecture or application framework
- Does not involve the planned reuse of other assets

## Versions of Single Products

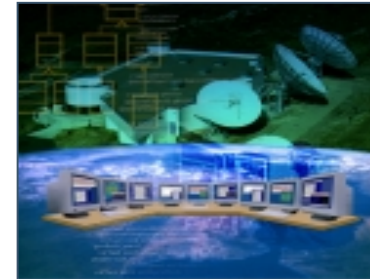
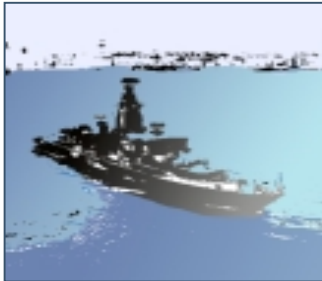
- Involves sequential release of products over time.
- No simultaneous release/support of multiple products

## Just a Set of Technical Standards

- Constraints to promote interoperability and to decrease the cost associated with maintenance and support of commercial components
- Does not provide assets and production capability

# Product Lines Are

Software product lines involve strategic, planned reuse that yields predictable results.



# Commercial Examples

Successful software product lines have been built for families of

- Mobile phones
- Command and control ship systems
- Ground-based spacecraft systems
- Avionics systems
- Pagers
- Engine control systems
- Billing systems
- Web-based retail systems
- Printers
- Consumer electronic products
- Acquisition management enterprise systems





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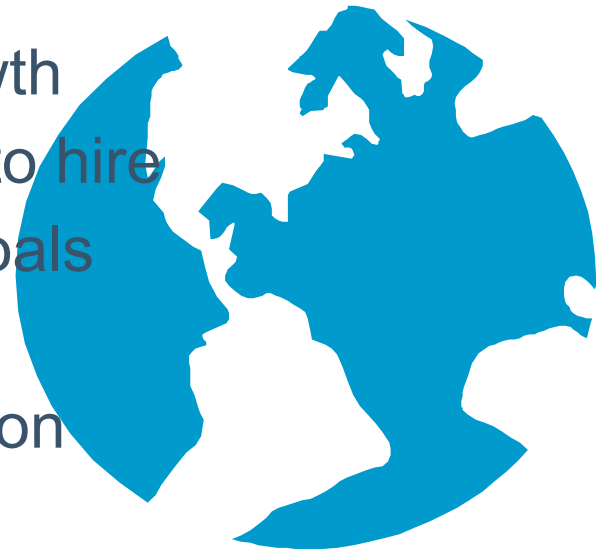
Conclusion



## Real World Motivation

Organizations use product line practices to:

- achieve large scale productivity gains
- improve time to market
- maintain market presence
- sustain unprecedented growth
- compensate for an inability to hire
- achieve systematic reuse goals
- improve product quality
- increase customer satisfaction
- enable mass customization
- get control of diverse product configurations



# Organizational Benefits

Improved productivity  
by as much as 10x

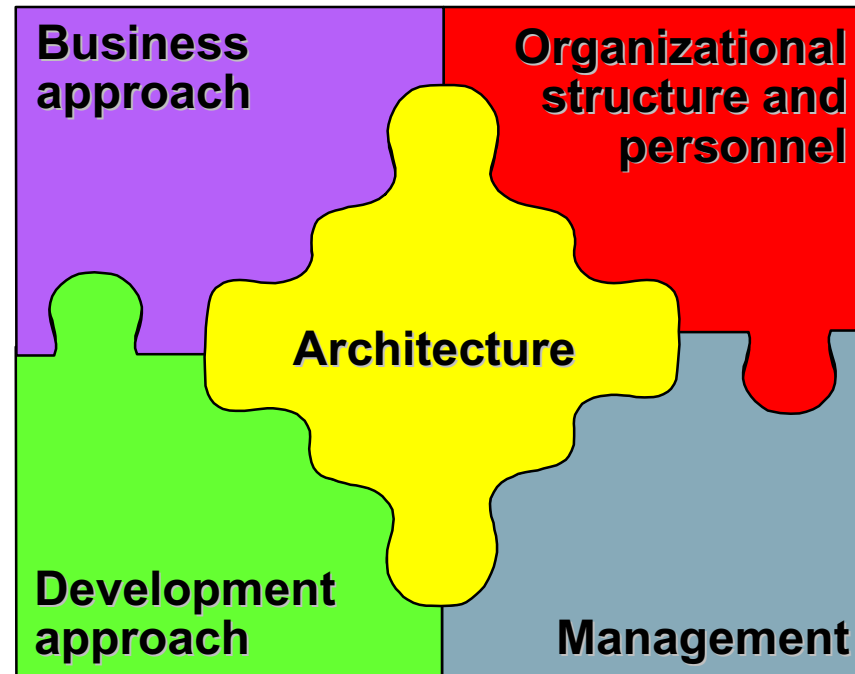
Decreased time to market (to field, to launch...)  
by as much as 10x

Decreased cost  
by as much as 60%

Decreased labor needs  
by as much as 10X fewer software developers

Increased quality  
by as much as 10X fewer defects

# Necessary Changes



**The architecture is the  
foundation of everything.**

# Importance of Architecture

Represents *earliest* design decisions

- hardest to change
- most critical to get right
- communication vehicle among stakeholders

*First* design artifact addressing

- performance
- modifiability
- reliability
- security

Key to systematic *reuse*

- transferable, reusable abstraction

The **right architecture** paves the way for system **success**.  
The **wrong architecture** usually spells some form of **disaster**.



# Product Line Practice

Contexts for product lines **vary** widely

- nature of products
- nature of market or mission
- business goals
- organizational infrastructure
- workforce distribution
- process discipline
- artifact maturity

**But there are universal essential activities and practices.**

# A Framework for Software Product Line Practice

The three essential activities and the descriptions of the product line practice areas form a conceptual framework for software product line practice.

This framework is evolving based on the experience and information provided by the community.

Version 4.0 – in *Software Product Lines: Practices and Patterns*

Version 4.1 – <http://www.sei.cmu.edu/plp/framework.html>

# SEI Information Sources

Case studies,  
experience reports,  
and surveys

Workshops,  
and  
conferences



Applied research

Collaborations  
with customers  
on actual product lines





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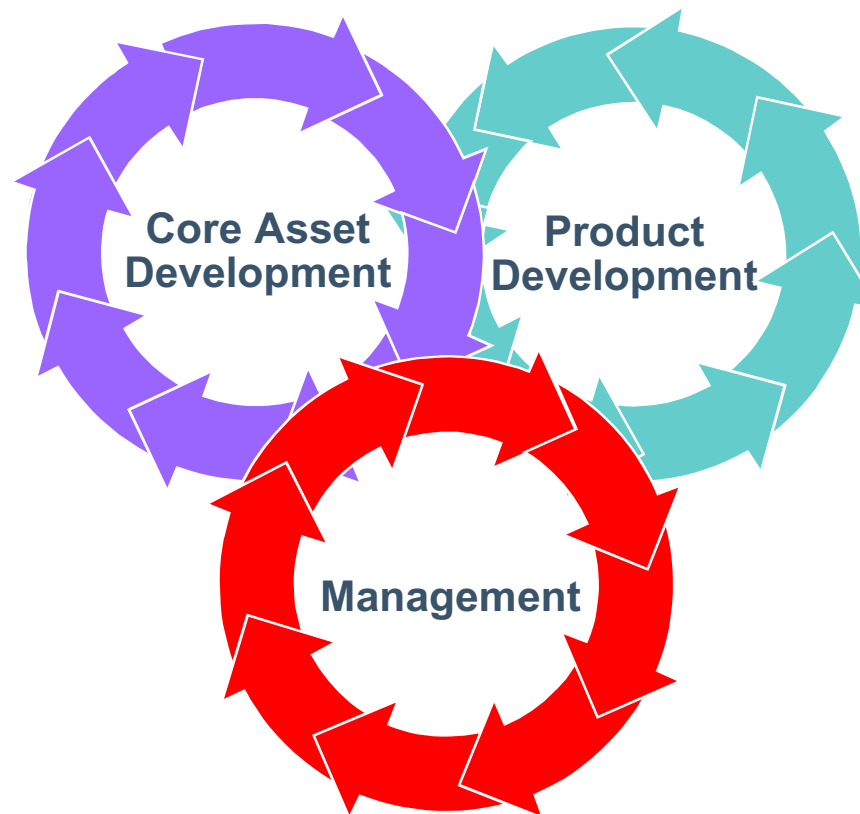
Introduction

## Product Line Concepts

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- How

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# Product Line Development



# The Nature of the Essential Activities

All three activities are interrelated and highly iterative.

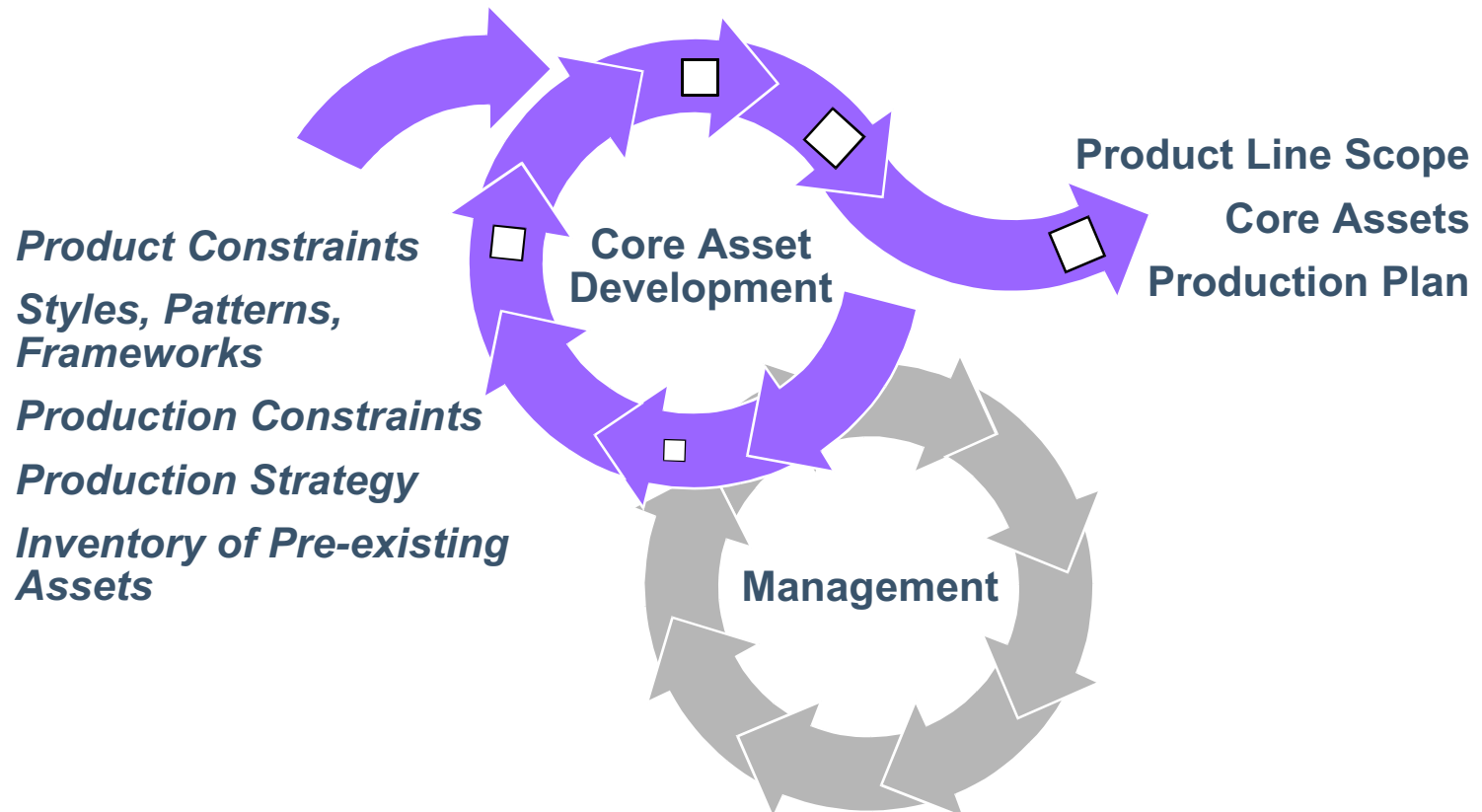
There is no “first” activity.

- In some contexts, existing products are mined for core assets.
- In others, core assets may be developed or procured for future use.

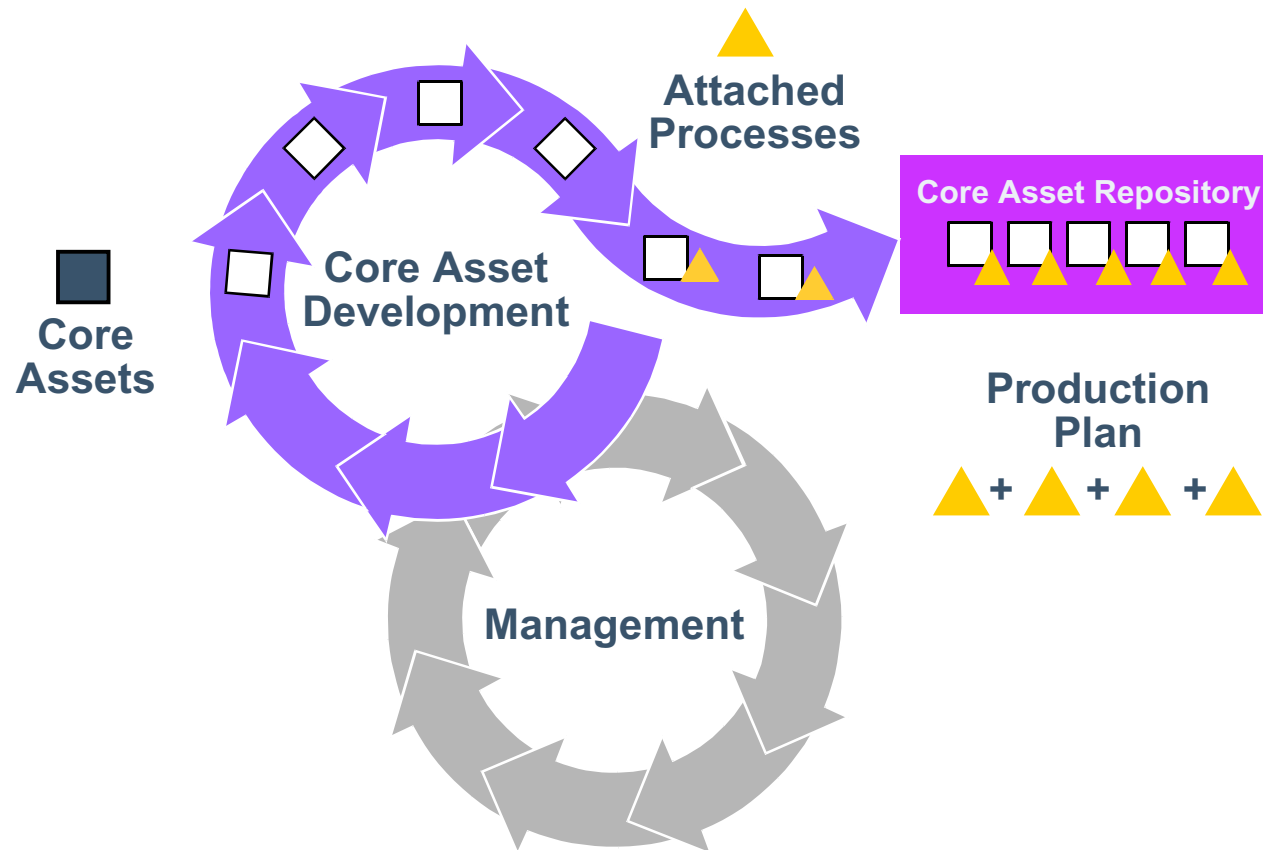
There is a strong feedback loop between the core assets and the products.

Strong management at multiple levels is needed throughout.

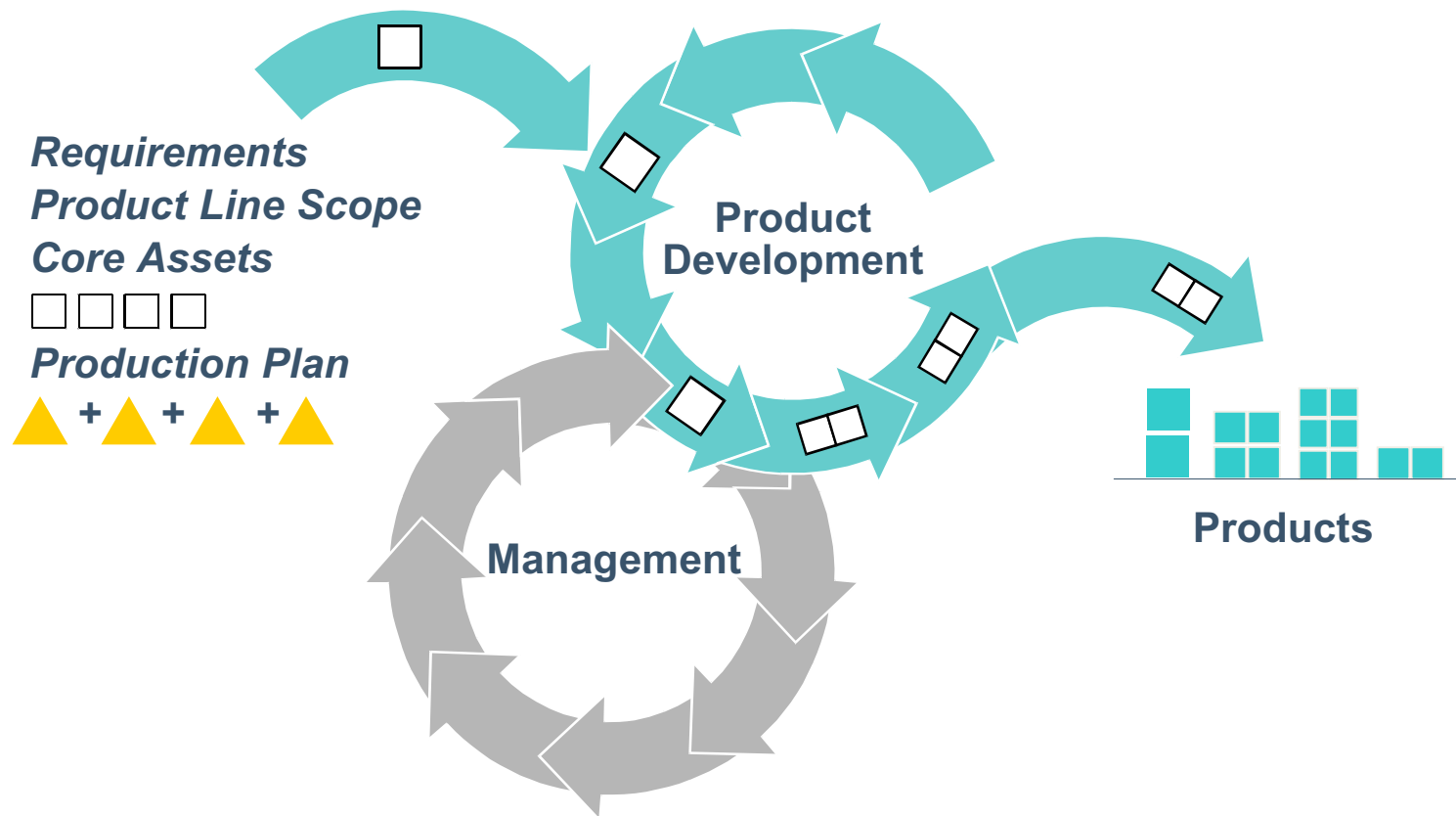
# Core Asset Development



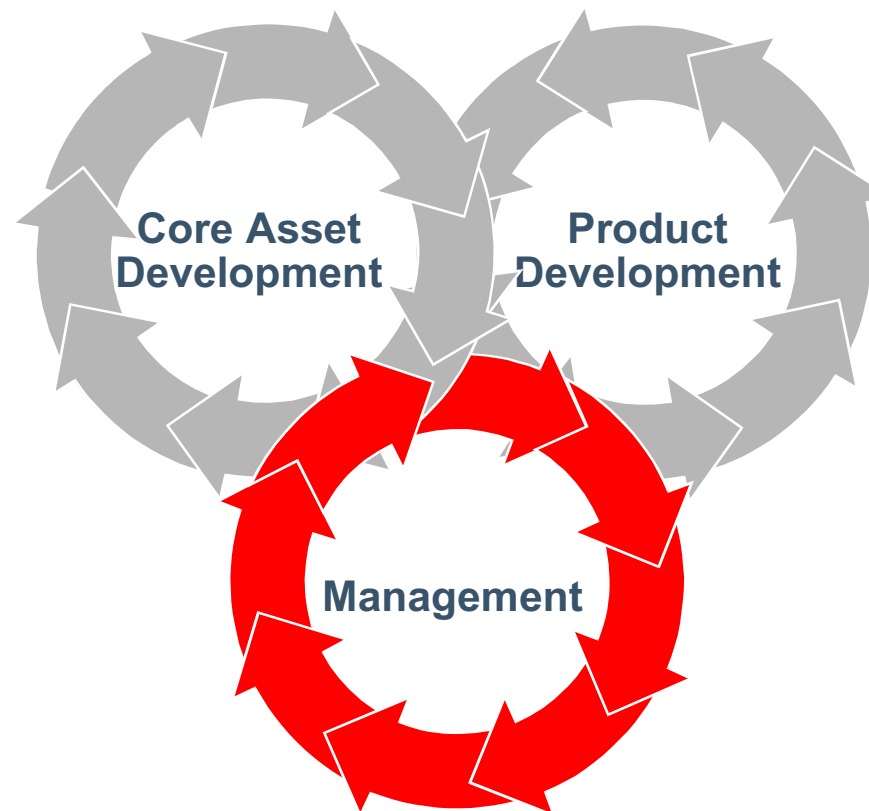
# Attached Processes



# Product Development



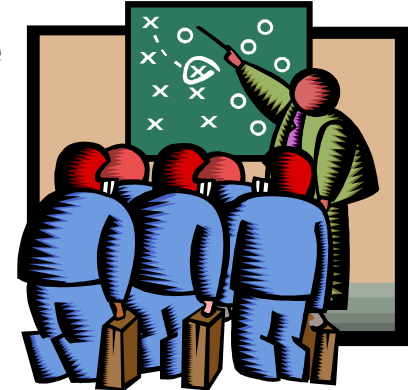
# Management



# Management

Management at multiple levels plays a critical role in the successful product line practice by

- achieving the right organizational structure
- allocating resources
- coordinating and supervising
- providing training
- rewarding employees appropriately
- developing and communicating an acquisition strategy
- managing external interfaces
- creating and implementing a product line adoption plan







# Managing a Software Product Line Requires Leadership

A key role for a software product line manager is that of champion.

The champion must

- set and maintain the vision
- ensure appropriate goals and measures are in place
- “sell” the product line up and down the chain
- sustain morale
- deflect potential derailments
- solicit feedback and continuously improve the approach

# Essential Product Line Activities



Each of these is essential, as is the blending of all three.

# Different Approaches - 1

*Proactive:* Develop the core assets first

- Develop the scope first and use it as a “mission” statement.
- Products come to market quickly with minimum code-writing.
- Requires upfront investment and predictive knowledge.

*Reactive:* Start with one or more products

- From these generate the product line core assets and then future products; the scope evolves more dramatically.
- Much lower cost of entry
- Architecture and other core assets must be robust, extensible, and appropriate to future product line needs

## Different Approaches - 2

*Incremental:* Develop in stages with the plan from the beginning to develop a product line.

- Develop part of the core asset base, including the architecture and some of the components.
- Develop one or more products.
- Develop part of the rest of the core asset base.
- Develop more products.
- Evolve more of the core asset base.
- .....



## Alternate Terminology

### Our Terminology

Product Line



Core Assets



Business Unit



Product



Core Asset Development



Product Development



### Alternate Terminology

Product Family

Platform

Product Line

Customization

Domain Engineering

Application Engineering

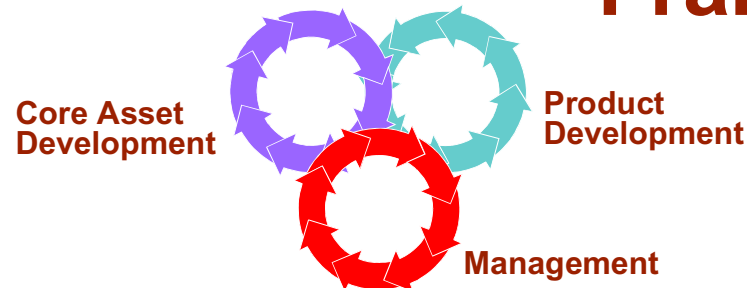
## Driving the Essential Activities

Beneath the level of the essential activities are essential practices that fall into practice areas.

A **practice area** is a body of work or a collection of activities that an organization must master to successfully carry out the essential work of a product line.



# Framework

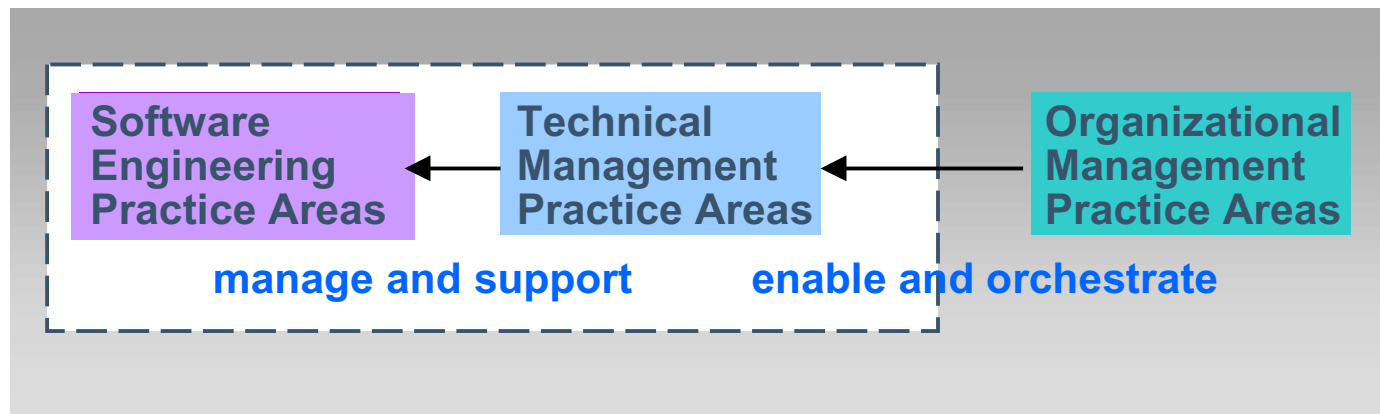


## *Essential Activities*

Architecture Definition Architecture Evaluation Component Development COTS Utilization Mining Existing Assets Requirements Engineering Software System Integration Testing Understanding Relevant Domains	Configuration Management Data Collection, Metrics, and Tracking Make/Buy/Mine/Commission Analysis Process Definition Scoping Technical Planning Technical Risk Management Tool Support	Building a Business Case Customer Interface Management Implementing an Acquisition Strategy Funding Launching and Institutionalizing Market Analysis Operations Organizational Planning Organizational Risk Management Structuring the Organization Technology Forecasting Training
<b>Software Engineering</b>	<b>Technical Management</b>	<b>Organizational Management</b>

## *Practice Areas*

# Relationships among Categories of Practice Areas



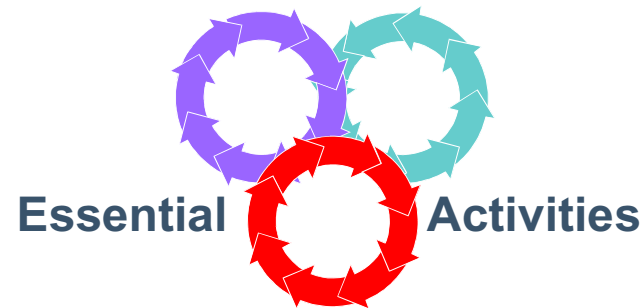


## **Dilemma: How Do You Apply the 29 Practice Areas?**

Organizations still have to figure out how to put the practice areas into play.

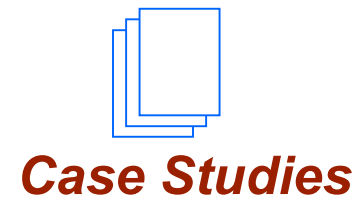
29 is a “big” number.

# Help to Make It Happen



## Practice Areas

<b>Software Engineering</b>	<b>Technical Management</b>	<b>Organizational Management</b>
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## Case Studies

**CelsiusTech** – CMU/SEI-96-TR-016

<http://www.sei.cmu.edu/pub/documents/96.reports/pdf/tr016.96.pdf>

**Cummins, Inc.** (*Software Product Lines: Practices and Patterns*)

**Market Maker** (*Software Product Lines: Practices and Patterns*)

**NRO/Raytheon** – CMU/SEI-2001-TR-030

<http://www.sei.cmu.edu/pub/documents/01.reports/pdf/01tr030.pdf>

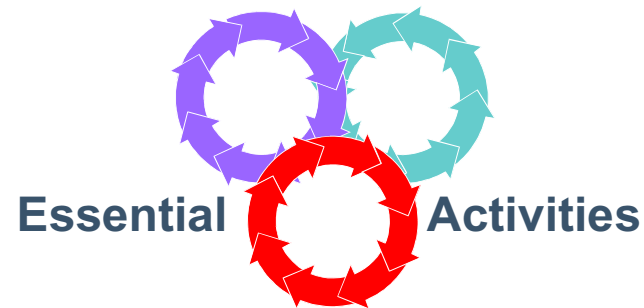
**NUWC** – CMU/SEI-2002-TN-018

<http://www.sei.cmu.edu/pub/documents/02.reports/pdf/02tn018.pdf>

**Salion, Inc.** – CMU/SEI-2002-TR-038

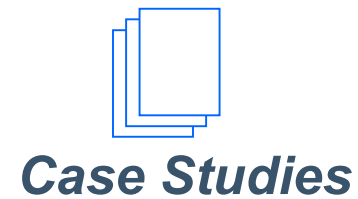
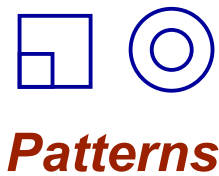
<http://www.sei.cmu.edu/pub/documents/02.reports/pdf/02tr038.pdf>

# Help to Make It Happen



## Practice Areas

<b>Software Engineering</b>	<b>Technical Management</b>	<b>Organizational Management</b>
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## Patterns Can Help

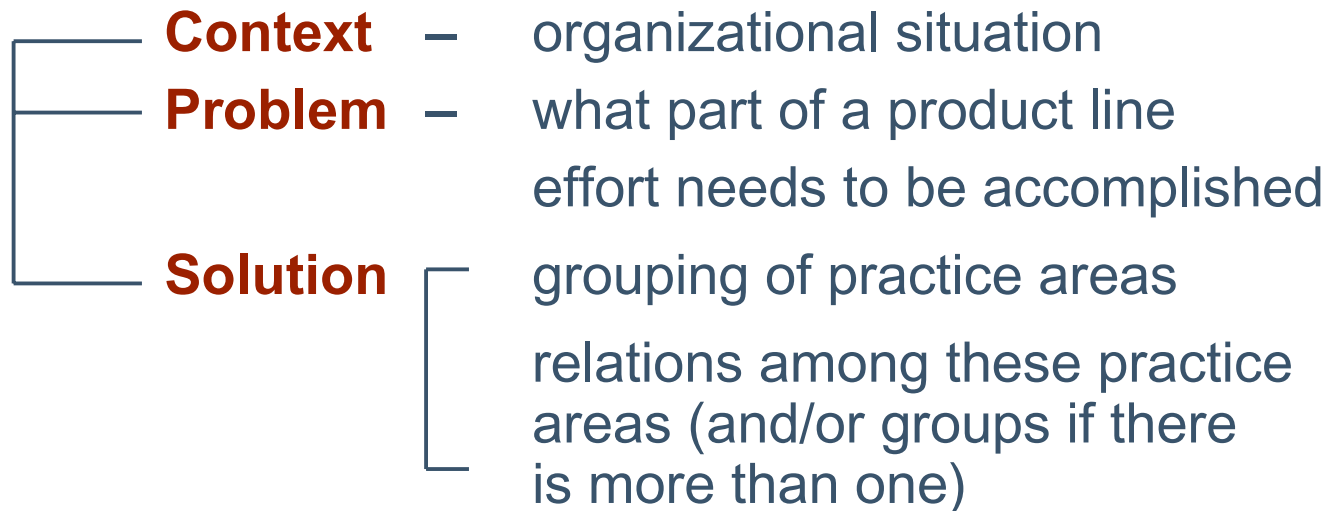
Patterns are a way of expressing common context and problem-solution pairs.

Patterns have been found to be useful in building architecture, economics, software architecture, software design, software implementation, process improvement, and others.

Patterns assist in effecting a divide and conquer approach.

# Software Product Line Practice Pattern

## Pattern



# What to Build Pattern - 1

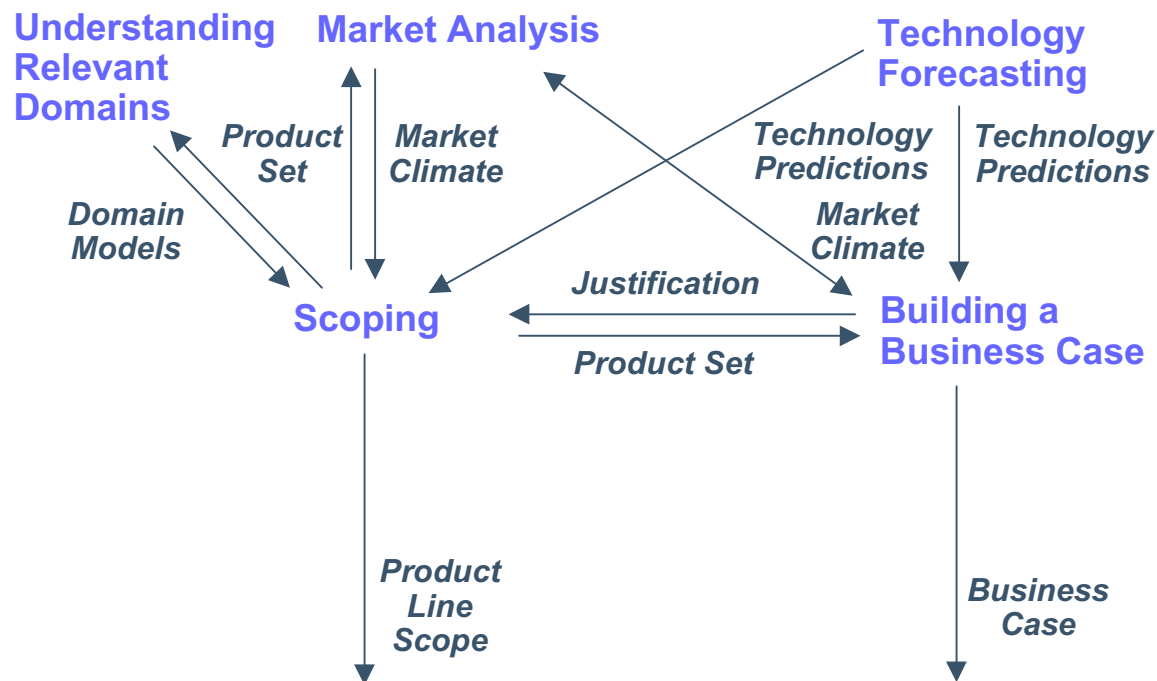
## **Name:**

The *What to Build* pattern helps an organization determine what products ought to be in its software product line – what products to build.

## **Context:**

An organization has decided to field a software product line and knows the general product area for the set of products.

## What to Build Pattern - 2



**Dynamic Structure**

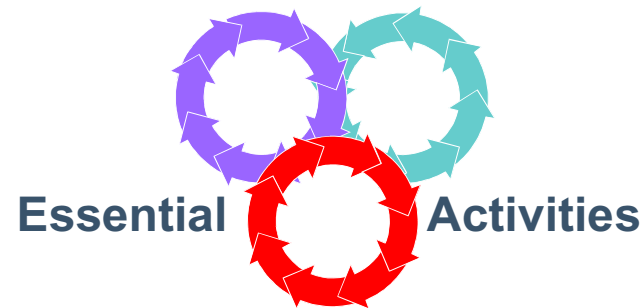




# Current Set of Patterns

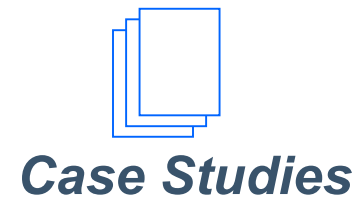
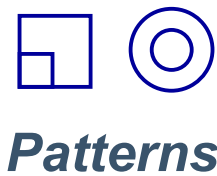
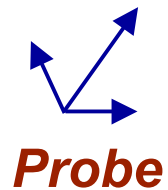
Pattern	Variants
Assembly Line	
Cold Start	Warm Start
Curriculum	
Each Asset	Each Asset Apprentice Evolve Each Asset
Essentials Coverage	
Factory	
In Motion	
Monitor	
Process	Process Improvement
Product Builder	Product Gen
Product Parts	Green Field Barren Field Plowed Field
What to Build	Analysis Forced March

# Help to Make It Happen

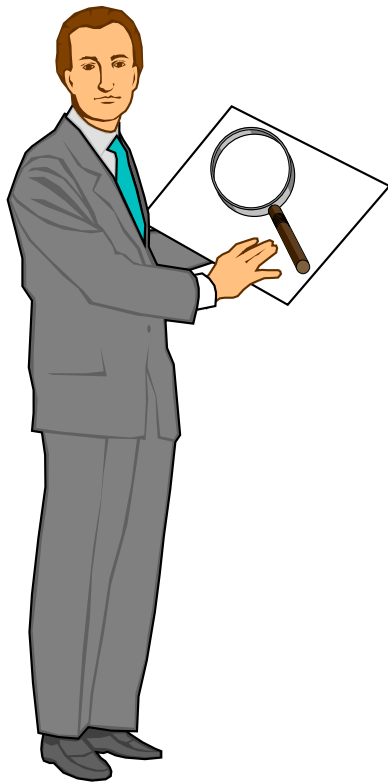


## Practice Areas

<b>Software Engineering</b>	<b>Technical Management</b>	<b>Organizational Management</b>
-----------------------------	-----------------------------	----------------------------------



# What is a Product Line Technical Probe?



A method for examining an organization's readiness to adopt or ability to succeed with a software product line approach

- diagnostic tool based on the Framework for Software Product Line Practice
- practice areas are used in the data collection and analysis

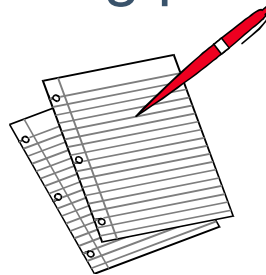
## Probe Outcomes

Set of findings that portray organizational

- strengths
- challenges

with regard to a product line approach.

Findings can be used to develop an action plan with the goal of making the organization more capable of achieving product line success.





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Conclusion

## In a Nutshell

Software product lines epitomize the concept of strategic, planned reuse.

The product line concept is about more than a new technology. It is a new way of doing one's software business.

There are essential product line activities and practices areas as well as product line patterns to make the move to product lines more manageable.

# What's Different About Reuse with Software Product Lines?

Business dimension

Iteration

Architecture focus

Pre-planning

Process **and** product connection

## Based on Our Experience

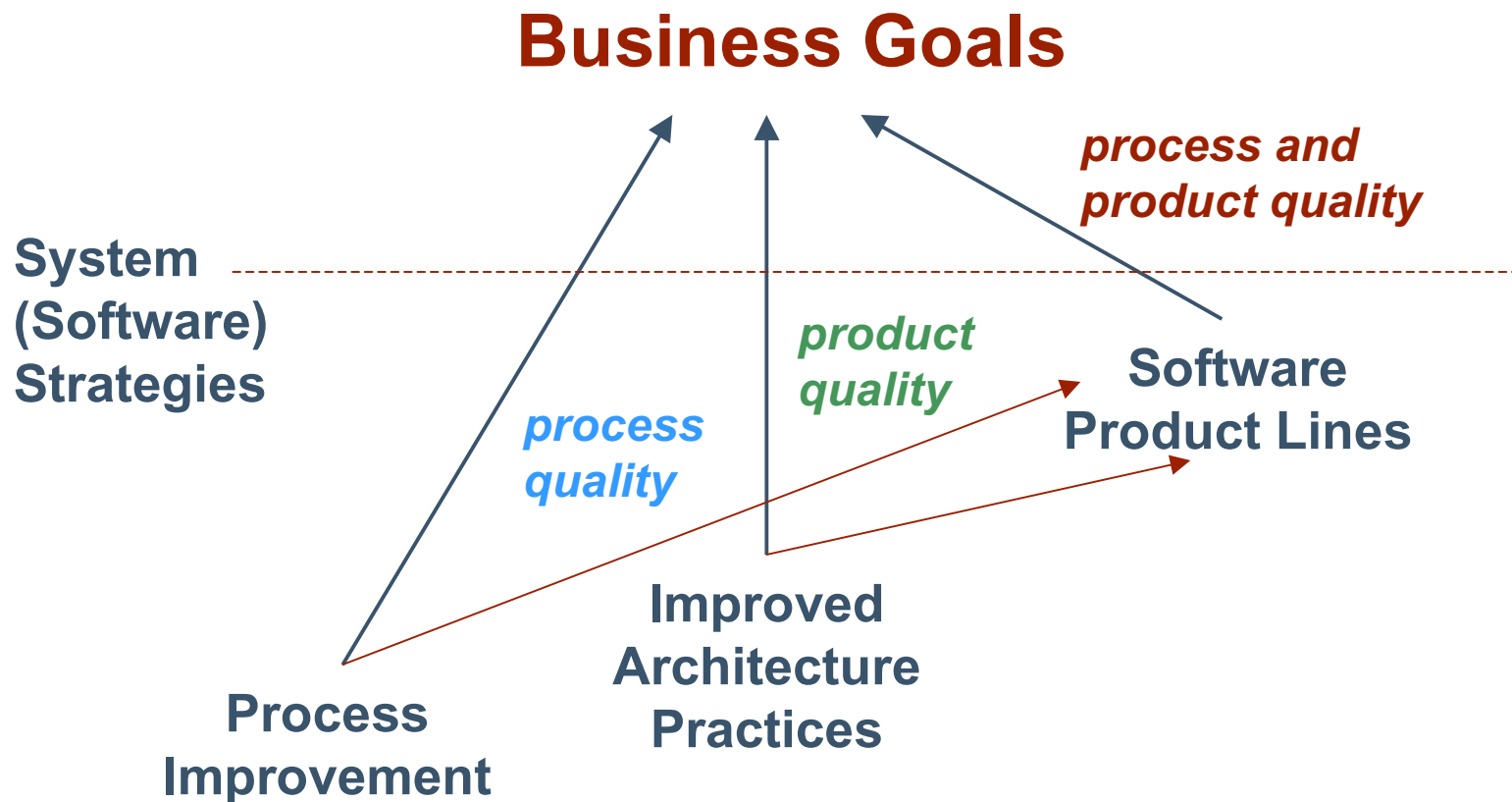
- Product line business practices cannot be effected without management commitment and involvement.
- Organization size doesn't matter.
- Organizational culture plays a major role in adoption success.
- Organizations need support: guidance, diagnostics, methods, and tools.
- The lack of an architecture focus and/or talent can kill an otherwise promising product line effort.
- Process discipline is critical.
- The community needs more quantitative data to support product line adoption.
- The cultural barriers and cost of adoption are major impediments to widespread transition.
- Software product line practice is at the "chasm." (in Geoffrey Moore's terms: *Crossing the Chasm*)



# Software Product Line Strategy in Context



# Software Product Line Strategy in Context





# The Time is Right

Rapidly maturing, increasingly sophisticated software development technologies including *object technology*, *component technology*, *standardization of commercial middleware*.

A global realization of the *importance of architecture*

A universal recognition of the need for *process discipline*.

*Role models and case studies* that are emerging in the literature and trade journals.

*Conferences, workshops, and education programs* that are now including product lines in the agenda.

Company and inter-company *product line initiatives*.

Rising recognition of the *amazing cost/performance savings* that are possible.



## Remaining Challenges

Definition of product line architectures

Evolution of product line architectures and assets

Product line migration strategies for legacy systems

Collection of relevant data to track against business goals

Funding models to support strategic reuse decisions

Acquisition strategies that support systematic reuse through product lines

Product line tool support

Ways to lower the initial cost of adoption

# Summary of SEI Contributions

## Practice Integration:

- A Framework for Software Product Line Practice<sup>SM</sup>, Version 4.1, <http://www.sei.cmu.edu/plp/framework.html>
- Acquisition Companion to the Framework

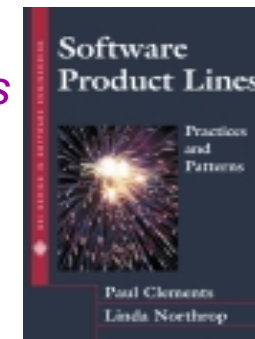
## Techniques and Methods

- product line analysis
- architecture definition – Attribute-Driven Design (ADD)
- architecture evaluation – Architecture Tradeoff Analysis Method<sup>SM</sup> (ATAM<sup>SM</sup>)
- mining assets – Options Analysis for Reengineering<sup>SM</sup> (OAR<sup>SM</sup>)
- Product Line Technical Probe<sup>SM</sup>

## Book

### *Software Product Lines: Practices and Patterns*

- Practices (Framework, Version 4.0)
- patterns
- case studies



## Conferences

SPLC 2004 – Sept 2004



Carnegie Mellon  
Software Engineering Institute

# Spreading the Software Product Line Word

## Courses

Software product line  
concepts, practices,  
and patterns

Architecture design

Mining assets

Product line analysis

Acquisition Guidelines

Essentials of Software  
Product Lines

Software Product Lines

Attribute-Driven Design

Options Analysis  
for Reengineering<sup>SM</sup>

Product Line Analysis  
Tutorial

Acquisition Executive  
Tutorial

## Book



## Reports



## Web

# Widespread Transition: SEI Software Architecture Curriculum

## Six courses

- Software Architecture Familiarization
- Documenting Software Architectures
- Software Architecture Design and Analysis
- Software Product Lines
- ATAM Evaluator Training
- ATAM Facilitator Training

## Three certificate programs

- Software Architecture Professional
- ATAM Evaluator
- ATAM Lead Evaluator



## In addition

- Architecture Analysis Guidelines for Acquisition Managers

## Associated Texts

*Software Architecture in Practice*  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Edition**



*Documenting Software Architectures: Views and Beyond*



*Evaluating Software Architectures: Methods and Case Studies*



*Software Product Lines: Practices and Patterns*





## Ongoing SEI Research

Variability mechanisms

Asset evolution

Production plan definition and implementation

Product line adoption phases and strategies

Architectural tactics

Architect Expert

Predictable assembly from certifiable  
components (PACC)

## Final Word

If properly managed, the benefits of a product line approach far exceed the costs.

Strategic software reuse through a well-managed product line approach achieves business goals for:

- efficiency
- time to market
- productivity, and
- quality

**Software product lines: Reuse that pays.**

## Questions – Now or Later

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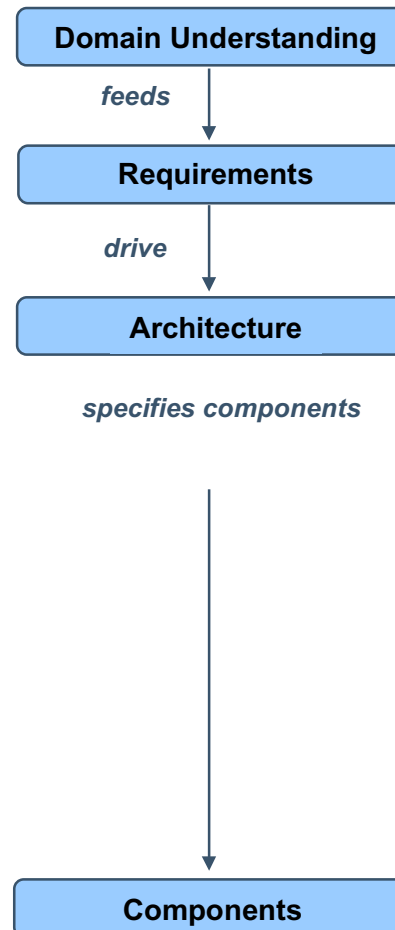
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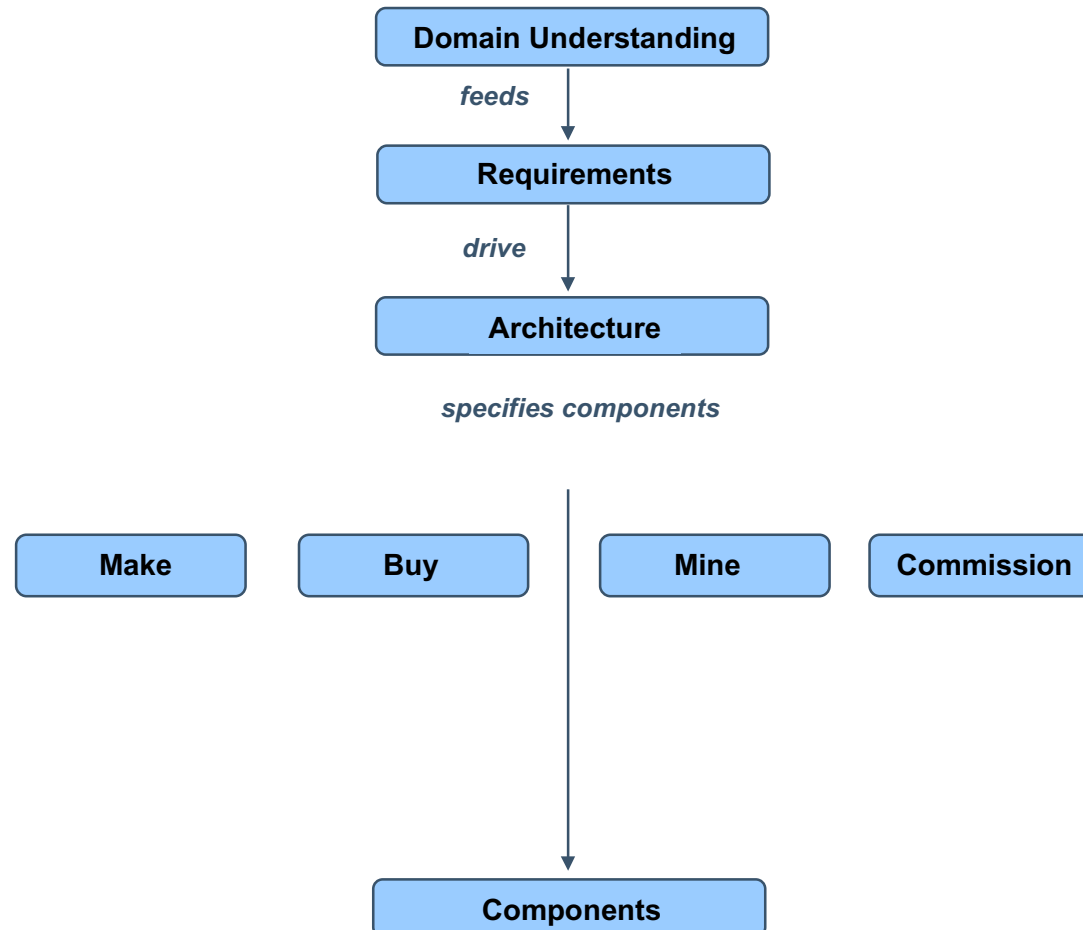
# Addendum

Extra slides for further explanation.

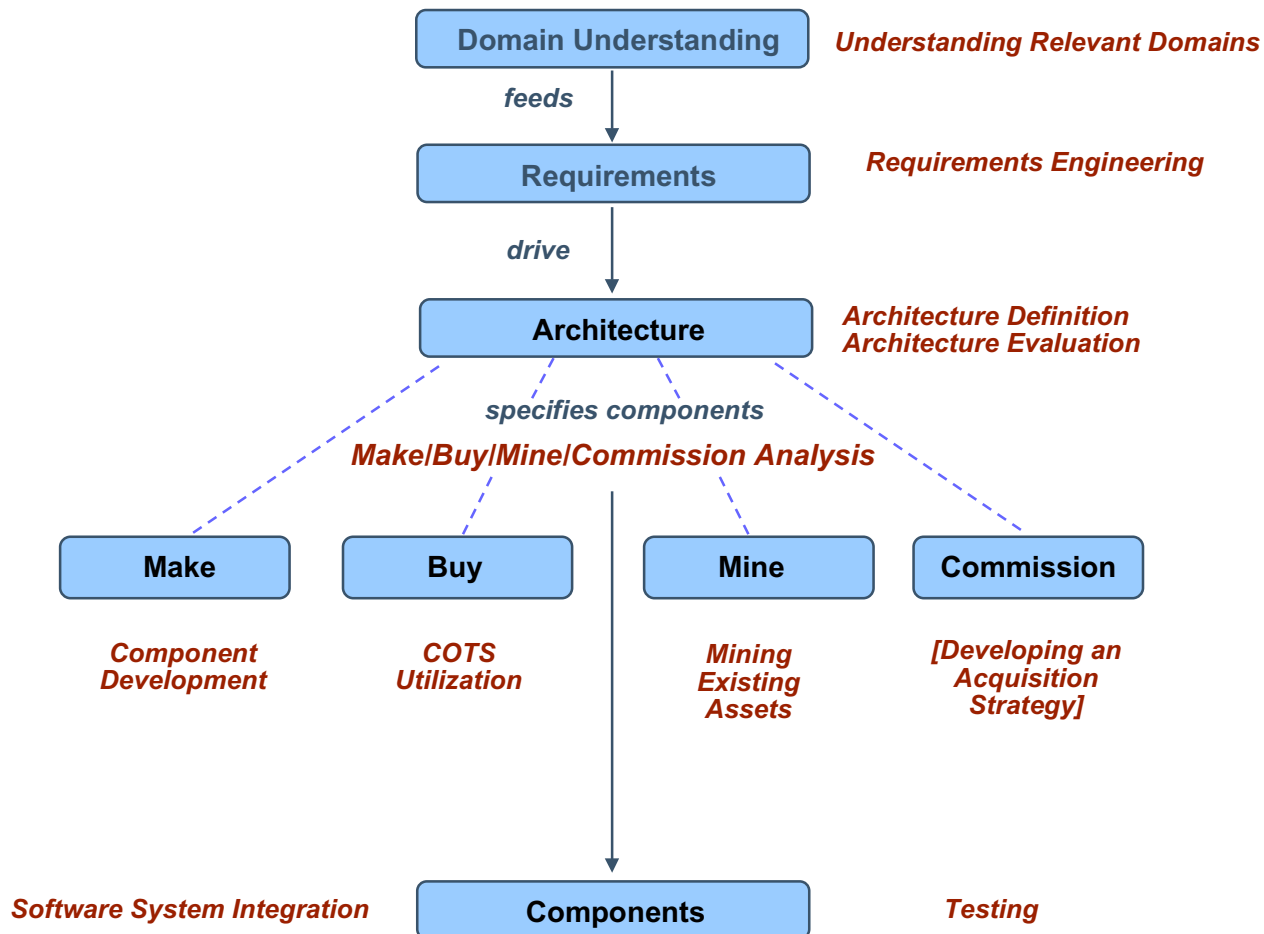
# Practice Area Relationships



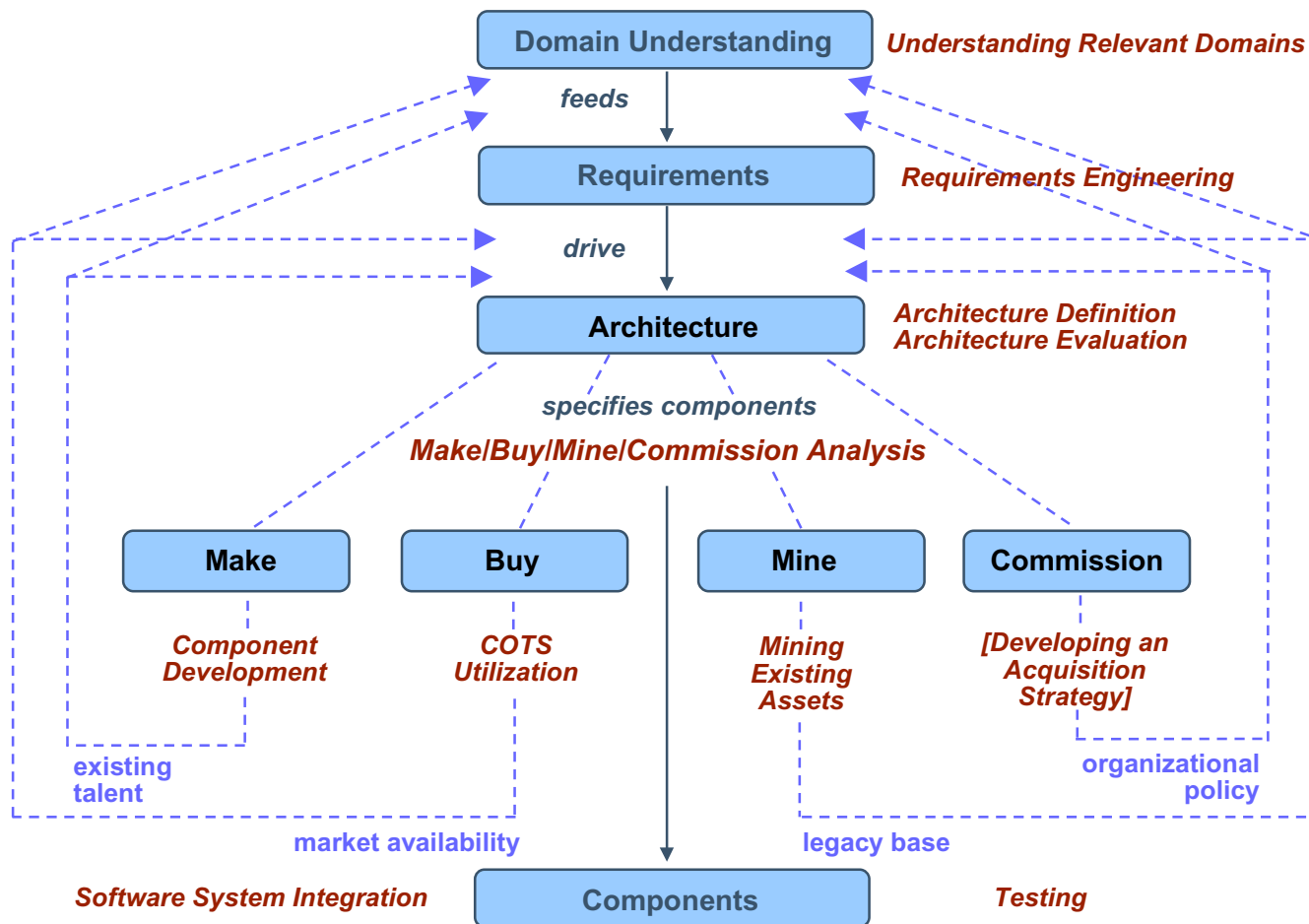
# Practice Area Relationships



# Practice Area Relationships



# Practice Area Relationships





# Factory Pattern - 1

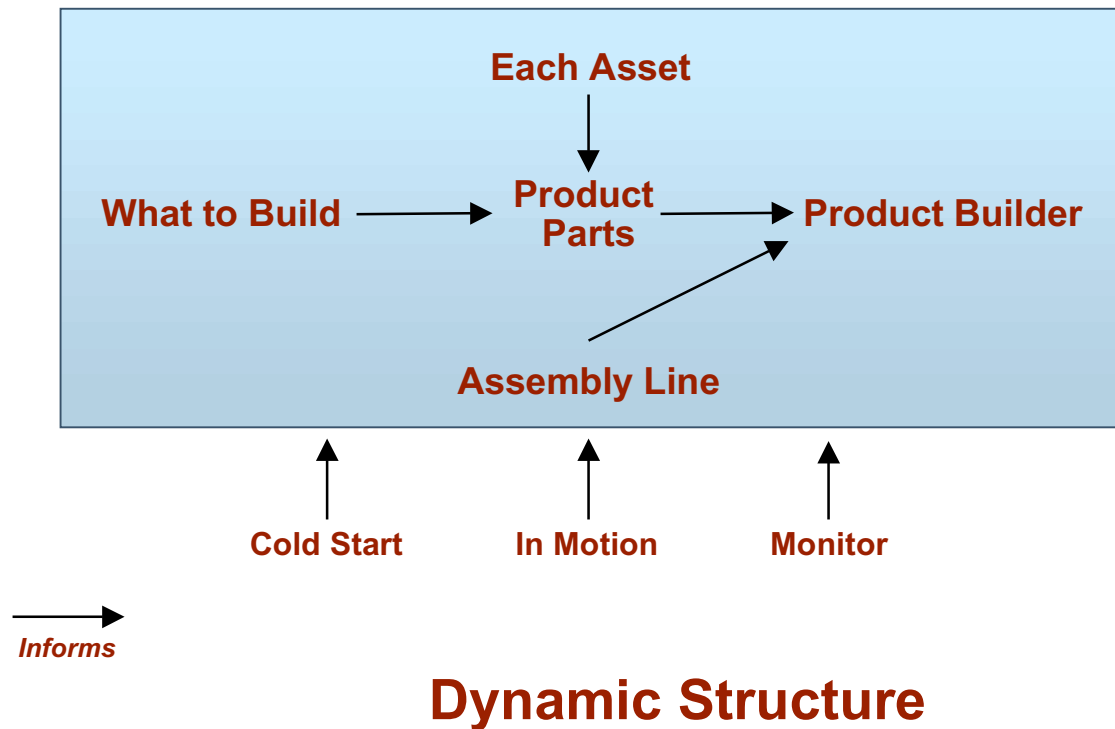
## **Name:**

The **Factory** is a composite pattern that describes the entire product line organization.

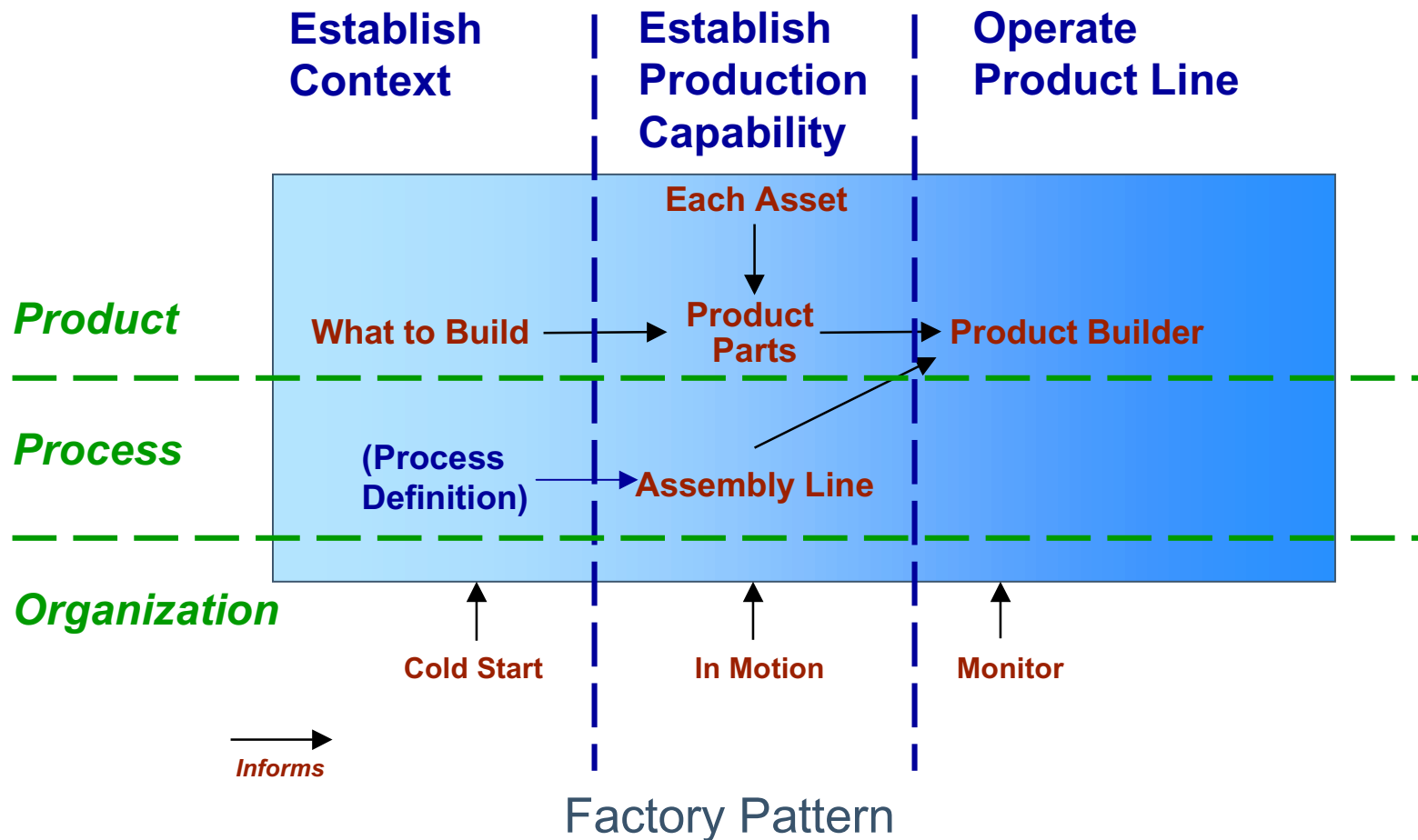
## **Context:**

An organization is considering (or fielding) a product line.

## Factory Pattern - 2



# Phases of Product Line Mastery





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## Associated Practice Areas

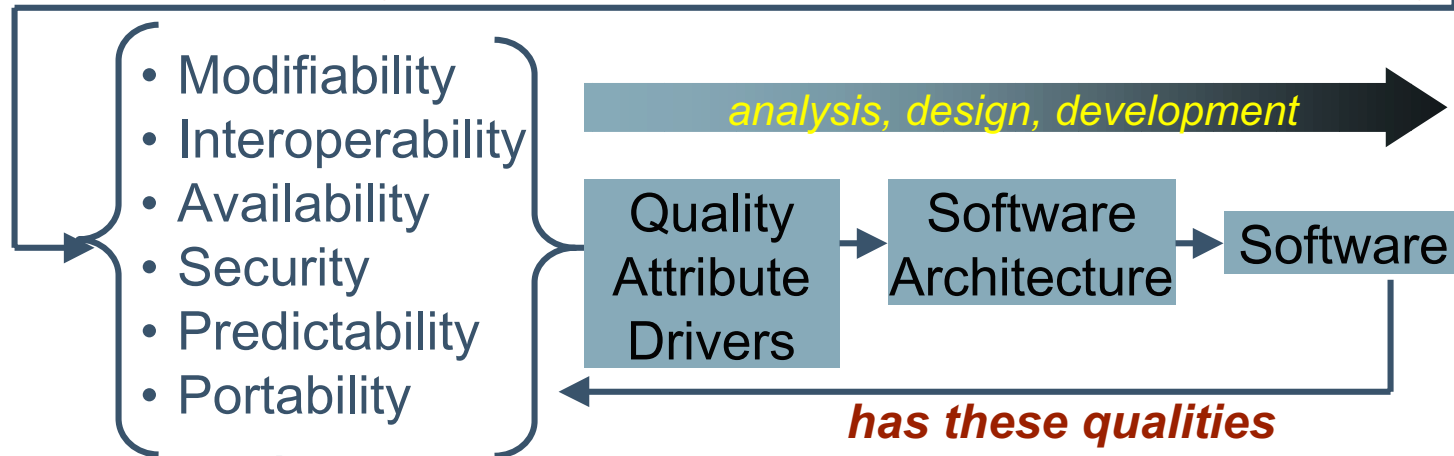
	Establish Context	Establish Production Capability	Operate Product Line
<b>Product</b>	Marketing Analysis Understanding Relevant Domains Technology Forecasting Building a Business Case Scoping	Requirements Engineering Architecture Definition Architecture Evaluation Mining Existing Assets Component Development COTS Utilization Software System Integration Testing	Requirements Engineering Architecture Definition Architecture Evaluation Mining Existing Assets Component Development COTS Utilization Software System Integration Testing
<b>Process</b>	Process Definition	Configuration Management Tool Support Data Collection, Metrics and Tracking Technical Planning	Configuration Management Tool Support Data Collection, Metrics and Tracking Technical Planning
<b>Organization</b>	Launching and Institutionalizing Funding Structuring the Organization Operations Organizational Planning Customer Interface Management Organizational Risk Management Developing an Acquisition Strategy Training	Launching and Institutionalizing Funding Structuring the Organization Operations Organizational Planning Customer Interface Management Organizational Risk Management Developing an Acquisition Strategy Training	Data Collection, Metrics and Tracking Technical Risk Management

# Software System Development



If function were all that mattered, any monolithic software would do, *..but other things matter...*

*The important quality attributes and their characterizations are key.*



# Principle 1

**Quality requirements can be collected and stated in a fashion meaningful for design**

We have focused on six quality attributes:

- availability
- modifiability
- performance
- security
- testability
- usability

## Principle 2

**There are known architectural techniques to achieve quality attributes and these techniques can be enumerated.**

For the six quality attributes –availability, modifiability, performance, security, testability, usability - we have enumerated a collection of “tactics”

Def: A *tactic* is an design decision that helps achieve a specific quality attribute response.

# Tactics for Performance

The tactics for performance are the following:

Performance		
Resource Demand	Resource Management	Resource Arbitration
Increase Computational Efficiency Reduce Computational Overhead Manage Event Rate Control Frequency of Sampling	Introduce Concurrency Maintain Multiple Copies Increase Available Resources	Scheduling Policy



# Tactics vis a vis architectural patterns

Tactics are more general than patterns.

- “increase computational efficiency” is a design decision that is independent of any particular pattern
- “maintain multiple copies” is used in any pattern that has caching as well as in availability patterns

Patterns package tactics - any pattern utilizes a collection of tactics

## Challenge Motivating PACC

Software components are critical to today's systems and product lines

**BUT the behavior of component assemblies is unpredictable.**

- “interface” abstractions are not sufficiently descriptive
- behavior of components is, in part, an *a priori* unknown
- behavior of component assemblies must be discovered

**The result is costly development and decreased assurance.**

**The net effect is slowed adoption of component technology.**

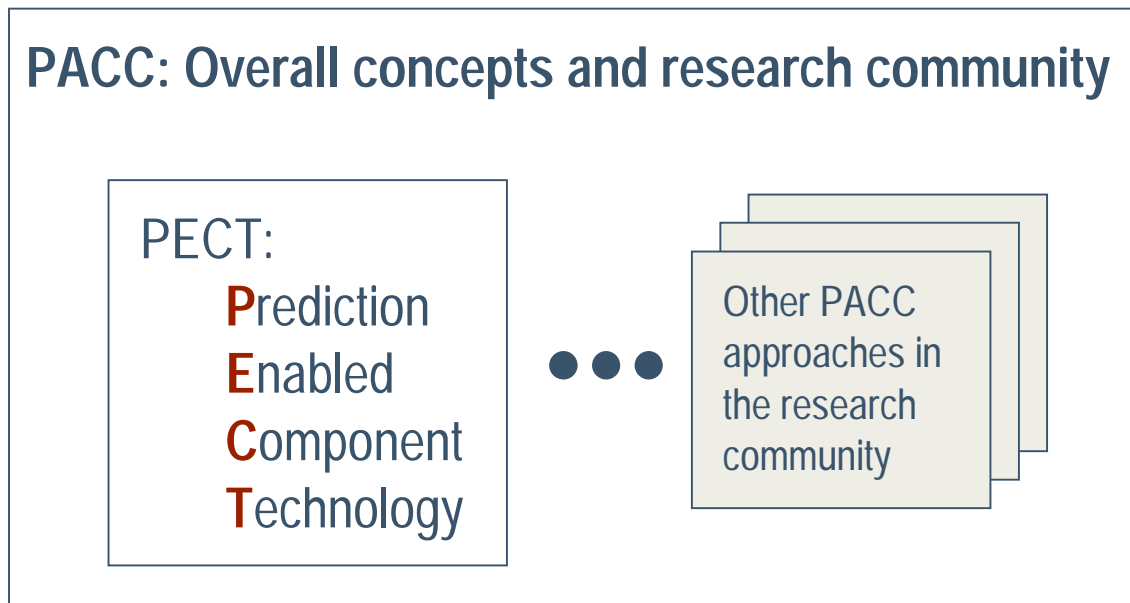
## The Vision

Our vision is to provide the engineering methods and technologies that will enable

- properties of assemblies of components to be reliably predicted, **by construction**
- properties of components used in predictions to be **objectively trusted**

We refer to the end-state as having achieved **predictable assembly from certifiable components (PACC)**

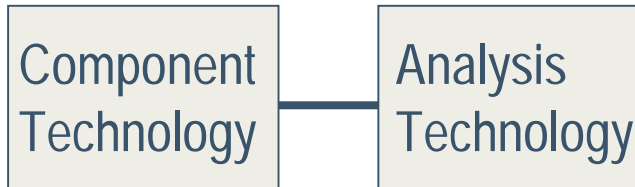
# Prediction Enabled Component Technology (PECT)



PECT is the approach we propose to achieve PACC goals.

# PECT Reference Concept

## Prediction-Enabled Component Technology (PECT)



At the grossest level, PECT is the integration of component technology with analysis technology



# Industrial Demonstration

Customer: ABB Corporate Research Center

## Customer Information

- Transforming from heavy industry in power plant equipment to IT products and services in process automation

## Purpose

- First year of collaboration to demonstrate the feasibility of PACC in substation automation
- Second year of collaboration to demonstrate the feasibility of PACC in industrial robotics

## Problem Being Solved

- Predictable assembly from certifiable components in substation automation domain
  - operator level latency (PECT)
  - controller level latency (PECT)
  - combined operator-controller latency (PECT<sup>2</sup>)and in robotics domain
- Reliability and safety scenarios are under investigation

## Status

- Feasibility study for substation automation completed
- Robotics work underway

## Status

PACC premises were validated on an internal system and through an ABB Feasibility Study.

PACC became an initiative as of October 2002.

The emphasis of work in 2002-03 is to ready PECT for practitioner use

- practical automation for building and using PECTs
  - conceptual framework of PECT was generalized in and was more rigorously defined
  - specification language (CCL) was defined and tools are currently being developed
- model checking was introduced for reliability verification
- technical advances in timing and reliability analysis paves the way to real industry trial, real payoff potential

# The Total Picture





# The Total Picture

